

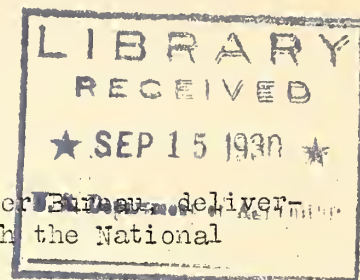
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AUGUST WEATHER



A radio talk by J. B. Kincer, meteorologist, Weather Bureau, delivered through WRC and 37 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, Wednesday, September 3, 1930.

How-do-you-do, Friends. Well, we are with you again today, for a little chat about the weather, and, of course, any weather talk these days must be about the drought. A month ago we summarized conditions up to the first of August, and today we shall tell you something about August weather. In general, recent rainfall has materially improved the situation in a few areas of the country, but in most sections that were droughty at the beginning of the month there has been little or no improvement, and conditions have even become worse in some districts. Like several preceding months, the rainfall for August was markedly deficient over the eastern half of the United States, the first half of the month being especially hot and dry.

About the middle of August moderate rains fell in much of the extremely dry interior of the country from the central Plains States eastward over Missouri and the Ohio Valley, while scattered showers were helpful in the Atlantic States, but, unfortunately, there was no follow-up rain of consequence in any of these sections, except in the Great Plains from Kansas northward to South Dakota where the latter part of the month had much better weather. In the middle Mississippi and Ohio Valleys damage to crops was checked by showers and cooler weather about the middle of the month, and the water situation was more or less relieved for the time being, but in the absence of rain thereafter the effect of the moisture disappeared rapidly and conditions were again very bad at the close of the month. In addition some sections, not so badly affected before, including the more northern States and the Southeast became damagingly dry.

Now, we have a little brighter side of the picture. During the latter part of August, especially the last few days, the general situation was materially improved by showers to rather widespread rains in parts of Ohio, the northern half of Indiana, over a belt across central Illinois and parts of the northeast, and more generally in Wisconsin and Minnesota, while local rains have been helpful in North Dakota and Montana, and in the lower Mississippi Valley. The soil is now in good condition also in nearly all localities over a considerable area of the Great Plains, including the northern half of Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota, while unusually heavy rainfall occurred during the month in the central Rocky Mountain States to the westward. Pastures are now in mostly good condition in the Plains States, just mentioned, and will improve in the North-Central areas where rains have occurred, but they are very bad in nearly all other sections, with little or no grazing feed available. In most Rocky Mountain sections the range is in excellent condition.

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Preparation of soil for winter wheat seeding is making rapid progress in the western Winter Wheat Belt, and considerable wheat has been sown, especially in the northwestern part of Kansas. Also in the other section mentioned above with recent rains, the soil condition is improved, but otherwise it is entirely too hard and dry for preparation.

The northwestern Cotton Belt is again becoming dry, while in Texas recent showers have been mostly too light to be effective. In the south-central belt, good rains during the last week will probably improve some late cotton, but growth continues irregular in most of the central Cotton Belt States, while in eastern sections recent weather has been less favorable than formerly because of scanty rainfall. There are increasing reports of shedding and premature opening. Picking and ginning have made generally good to excellent progress.

At the present time interest is perhaps more general in the effect of August weather on corn than any other single crop. August was markedly unfavorable for corn, especially the first half of the month when the drought became more generally severe and was intensified by very high temperatures. The most damaging weather to the corn crop this year, when the country as a whole is considered, occurred from about the middle of July to about the middle of August. Preceding this, the rather favorable conditions in June extended largely into the first half of July, and damage to corn was not marked until about the middle of the month, when the more critical stage of growth was reached. Consequently, the bulk of the July loss, estimated by the Department of Agriculture at some 600,000,000 bushels, occurred during the last half of the month, with damage increasingly greater toward its close. During the first part of August corn in much of the belt was in a very susceptible stage of growth for damage, by the extremely unfavorable weather; the first few days of August brought the most damaging corn weather of the entire season, and the first half of the month was comparably as unfavorable to the corn crop as the last half of July. In some sections the situation was relieved the latter part of August, notably from northern Kansas northward to South Dakota, but the corn crop in large sections, including some principal producing areas, continued to suffer for moisture up to the close of the month.

Well, folks, our time is up, and we must say good-bye until next month.